

KULTUR AT HOME: CHILD SUICIDES AND PAUPERS

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FOR nearly a quarter of a century—despite the fact that thousands of Germans fled to other countries—the American people have been told that the German masses were well fed and happy, that from infancy to old age they were solicitously cared for by a fatherly government, that workers enjoyed shorter hours and higher pay than those of other countries, that they had picturesque homes, cheap food in plenty. According to the reports in Germany there was no poverty, slums did not exist, German babies were provided with pasteurized milk and cared for in orphanages and clinics, and in severe old age, instead of poverty or the almshouse, the happy Germans enjoyed ease, comfort and freedom from worry through the marvellous German system of pensions.

In fact, so delightful were the living conditions of the masses of German workers before the war, as presented by German propagandists and certain American sociologists, "experts," that many people in this country pined for the paradise provided by the Kaiser for his devoted subjects. Especially were Socialist leaders, whose political philosophy came from Germany and who opposed our going to war with Germany, outspoken in the belief that the German system was better than our own. J. C. Bental, former Socialist candidate for Governor of Minnesota (recently found guilty by a jury in the Federal court of Minneapolis of violating the espionage act and also under sentence for obstructing the draft), declared in effect in a public speech: "What if the Germans come over and rule us? What do we care who governs us so long as we are well fed and happy?"

Conditions Unknown To Most Americans

The system which has worked out in Germany is what the German autocracy by force of might would impose upon the people of the world. Should it be desired with outstretched arms as a blessing for all mankind? The Allies have given their answer, and America has given its answer. Yet so long-continued and persistent was the German propaganda, aided and abetted by such writers as Fred Howe and Morris Hillquit, that many Americans are still in ignorance of the actual facts concerning conditions in Germany. When they realize what actually existed they will better understand why the peoples of the world must resist the thing called Prussianism with force to the utmost.

Facts concerning the social and working conditions in Germany up to the outbreak of the war have been gathered for the League for National Unity by Gustavus A. Myers, the well known historian and research writer. These facts have been assembled from official German documents and other authoritative sources. What do they reveal?

The annuity banks of Germany, instead of benefiting small farmers, operate almost exclusively to the advantage of Junker landlords. The poor peasants are still paying off the feudal impositions of five centuries ago. Because they could not afford machinery, German farmers were obliged to employ women and children, who worked beside the oxen and the plough. Women in 1912 earned 38 to 48 cents a day and children over 12 years 24 cents a day.

Insurance Only 76 Cents a Week

The much praised imperial insurance system gave to the aged the sum of 76 cents a week, to the invalid and sick less than \$1 a week and to a widow 25 cents a week—this in a country where the yearly cost of barest subsistence was from \$140 to \$155.

Workers in Germany worked longer than those in America, England or France. The average yearly earnings of skilled workmen were \$372, and unskilled \$310. The average family expenditure, according to an investigation made by the German Imperial Statistical Office, was \$531.70 a year. To make ends meet women and children were obliged to work. They were employed in the most strenuous trades. Before the war about 64,000 women were engaged in the metal industry, earning an average of 49 cents a day. They were employed in the coal and salt mines. In the metal trades they were subjected to terrible strain by having to lift heavy machinery.

Employment in trades for which only men were normally fit and unskilled made many of these women unfit for motherhood. Infant mortality up to the beginning of the war was higher in Germany than in any country excepting Russia and Austria.

True Record of Vaunted Social Teuton Efficiency Shown in Statistics of Misery and Crime—Workers Crowded, Underfed and Overdriven; Babies' Death Rate High; Aged Poor Made Outcasts—Whole Picture of Industrial Paradise Proves Camouflage

In the German Empire there was year by year an appalling increase in the suicides of children and young people, the child suicides of Berlin being fifteen times more than those in New York City. Year by year the number of paupers increased, in Berlin the number rising from 31,358 in 1891 to 56,601 in 1909. So trivial were the much extolled pensions given the aged that the miserable beneficiaries had to ask for additional poor relief alms in order to live.

While Germany, through her publicity agents, German professors and American "uplift" writers, carried on a propaganda designed to impress Americans with the belief that Germany was superior in social progress, German writers made it their policy to regale the masses at home with accounts of food adulteration, municipal graft and political corruption in the United States. The "muck rake" articles of those same American "reformers and uplifters," who, while they extolled Germany, made it their business to exploit conditions here, were relishingly purveyed by the German press to the German people.

While the German government sought to alienate the loyalty and allegiance of other peoples from their governments, they endeavored to render their own masses more servile, submissive and content by presenting as inferior the conditions existing in democratic countries.

Crime Increasing Throughout Germany

But what are the facts? It may be assumed that the efficiency and integrity of a government may be interpreted by the absence of crime and the moral standard of the people. Crime has increased throughout the German Empire. According to data gathered by Dr. Thomas Smith, there were in Germany in a period of ten years 350 convictions for murder, against 97 in England and Wales. From 1901 to 1910 about 178,000 illegitimate children were born each year, and, according to German statistics, 25 per cent of the children born in Berlin are illegitimate. As for the superiority of Germany in pure food, scientific Germany was the original home of food adulteration. While legitimate criticism was called for by food adulteration in this country, the United States was never worse than the expert German adulterators and inventors of imitation foods. From the candy sold to children to the coffee sipped by those happy beneficiaries of old age pensions the rankiest adulteration has prevailed for years. As for meat, dog slaughter houses have been officially recognized, and in Berlin before the war from 11,000 to 14,000 horses were butchered for the markets.

Infant Mortality Alarming Great

Germany has claimed to be the innovator of the movement to reduce infant mortality, to take care of poor mothers, to give babies and children proper food and medical attention—in fact, the whole "child saving" system was claimed by the exponents of Teuton Kultur. As a matter of historical fact, this movement originated in France, before the Revolution, in 1786, when the Société de Charité was founded. Milk stations for babies were established in France a quarter of a century ago. Yet Germany has advertised her krippen, milk stations, clinics, maternity hospitals and other alleged social reforms to the degree that Socialist Bental and perhaps many others were inclined to regard the possible imposition of such a wonderful government upon ourselves with acquiescence. Germany has never advertised the facts regarding infant mortality or child suicides. In this alone is a damning indictment of the Prussian system.

According to official figures the number of deaths per hundred of children under one year of age in the German Empire from 1910 to 1914 averaged 17, against 11 in France and 10.9 in England and Wales. The infant death rate per thousand in 1912, according to the report of the Prussian Medical Department, Ministry of the Interior, was: Berlin, 178; Danzig, 203; Breslau, 203; Magdeburg, 202; Posen, 212; Düsseldorf, 146, and Hanover, 132. The death rate of children in the East Side of New York and the slums of other American cities has been exploited for their own purposes by various American radicals and Socialist reformers, who at the same time praised everything that was German. A week escape by death from a life of

happiness and folksong? Germany was pictured to American children as the home of Santa Claus, of the Christmas tree, of marvellous mechanical toys.

Yet in this Germany of alleged happy homes many children found death more alluring than life. In Saxony there were eight child suicides to every one in the United States, and in Berlin fifteen to every one in New York City. In the United States registration area the suicide rate for children from ten to fourteen years of age has been 0.55 per 100,000 population; in Bavaria it has been 1.55, and in Saxony 4.39. Bavaria has been less under the influence of Prussia than Saxony, where the working classes are hard worked and underfed. In

	Germany 1897-'07	England 1900-'10
Maliciously and feloniously wounding	172,183	1,262
Murders	350	87
Rapes	9,381	216
Illicit	573	56
Unnatural crimes	841	290
Illegitimate children	178,115	37,041
Divorce petitions	20,340	965
Malicious damage to property	25,799	378
Arson	610	258

Just as children were driven to suicide in Germany because of the intolerable conditions, so were a large proportion of children driven to crime. In 1908 1,957 persons were convicted of crimes causing death—of this number 176 were between twelve and eighteen. In the same year, of 13,562 persons convicted of crimes against morality 1,319

worth of meat and 26 cents' worth of sausage each week. The average family expenditure for fish was 7 cents a week, for butter or its substitutes—suet, oleomargarine and lard—36 cents a week, and for eggs 12 cents a week. Of cheese, a staple German food, a family was able to buy only 7 to 8 cents' worth. For other necessities the average family expenditure each week was: Potatoes, 15 to 16 cents' worth; vegetables, 10 to 11 cents; sugar, syrup and honey, 11 cents; fruit, 12 cents; flour, rice and cereals, 13 cents; coffee, consisting chiefly of coffee substitutes, 12 cents; tea, chocolate and cocoa, 4 cents; milk, 45 cents and bread and pastry, 75 cents. During peace times the principal diet of the German workers



than 30 per cent of the children died before they were one year of age. Reviewing the infant death rate in the German textile industrial districts, the report went on to say, the reasons given for the astounding conditions were:

"First—The fact that wages are so low that the wife is obliged to go to the mill to help keep the house going.
"Second—That prices of necessities are so high that a sufficient amount cannot be purchased, especially of meat, to keep the mother in a state of physical efficiency.
"Third—That a considerable number of the children are handed over to the care of neighbors or older children, and lose the close attention of the mother, who returns to the factory as soon after confinement as possible.
"Perhaps the principal reason has been overlooked by the Germans themselves. From the number of workmen's homes we visited and the inquiries we made, it is safe to assume that the average textile worker's family is housed in two small rooms, measuring twelve feet by nine feet, in a high building of five or six stories. It is the exception rather than the rule for a worker to have three of these rooms, unless he has other members of the family working; and the stuffiness of these rooms can be better imagined than described, when the family is all present.

According to statistics prepared by Breckin's, six-sevenths of the infants' deaths in Berlin were of bottle-fed babies—this despite the vaunted use of pasteurized milk. The deaths of a majority of these infants, therefore, must be ascribed to the physical condition of mothers who, to earn a meagre living, were driven to drudgery, to hard labor in fields, mines, factories and shops. Because men were needed for the army, before the war millions of women were condemned to tasks for which only men were fitted. Overstrained, underfed, their health destroyed, unable to nourish infants, they brought into the world weaklings too physically unfit to survive.

Appalling Rate of Child Suicide

And of those who did survive an appalling percentage was driven to death by suicide. Perhaps there is nothing so revealing of the actual conditions in Germany, no such commentary on the government which seeks to impose its will on the world, as the death by their own hand of the little children of Germany. Why did these children

Alsace-Lorraine, where the Prussian influence has made the least impress, the suicide rate was only 0.85 per 100,000 population, or 0.30 more than that of the United States.

The suicide rate of adults in many parts of Germany was unparalleled in other parts of the world. It may be remarked that a low general rate of suicides prevailed in the Roman Catholic sections of Westphalia, the Rhine provinces and the Polish provinces of Prussia, while in the stretches from the North Sea along the Elbe to Bohemia, which were most affected by the Prussian system, a high rate of 30 to 35 per 100,000 prevailed. During the five years ended with 1913 the suicide rate per 100,000 in Berlin was 35.8. In New York City, where suicides are more especially marked among the foreign population, the rate was 17.2, and in London 11. During the same period the suicide rate per 100,000 population in the Kingdom of Saxony was 32.6, in the province of Brandenburg, exclusive of Berlin, 33.1. In the Kingdom of Bavaria, which is largely Roman Catholic, the rate was 16.2, and in Alsace-Lorraine, which has resisted Prussianization, only 15.5.

Crime Steadily On the Increase

Since the United States entered the war the German press has referred with bitter cynicism to the alleged low standard of official and political integrity, as well as individual honesty, in this country. Without referring specifically to the profiteering scandals in Germany of the past year or more, or to the crime wave which has swept over the nation which designated treaties as mere scraps of paper, official statistics show that the extent of crime in the German Empire before the war was astounding. Evidence of this may be found in the "Imperial Statistics of the German Empire," Volume 228, dealing with "Criminal Statistics." Dr. Thomas Smith, author of "The Soul of Germany," compiled a table showing the convictions for various crimes in Germany and England. Pointing out that the population of England and Wales is three-fifths that of Germany, Dr. Smith gives the following staggering comparisons:

were between the ages of twelve and eighteen. In 1910, as stated, 179,584 illegitimate children were born in the German Empire. Since the beginning of the war the German government—following its policy of fostering the production of "fodder for cannon"—has encouraged the propagation of male children by establishing a pension for all male infants born; children born out of wedlock have been officially legitimized; womanhood has been prostituted to the designs of imperial Germany in a manner unsurpassed even in the days before Christianity dawned upon the world.

Militarism's Chief Support Is Hunger

It has been said a hungry man knows no conscience. Before the war, while the land-owning and manufacturing classes waxed indifferently rich, the masses of Germany suffered from actual hunger. While Germany was increasing her navy and building her costly war machine, rents and the costs of living went up year by year; the barracks tenements became more and more overcrowded; foods that were mere necessities in America became luxuries to the German workers; the pinch of poverty became more acute. The German government realized that its subjects were approaching uneasiness, if not active protest. It realized that to bring this hungry and at the same time docile people to the savage mood for war all that was needed was the declaration that Germany was attacked and that England wickedly intended to deprive the Germans of the fruit of their industry and thrift. It likewise held out the promise of the fat lands of France, the markets of Great Britain, of colonies beyond the seas. Success in war meant money and food.

The German Imperial Statistical Office affords accurate information as to the condition of the German workers' stomach up to the beginning of the war.

The German workers for many years have used horse meat and some dog meat. Beefsteak, veal and chops were far above the slender means of many. The average German workman, according to official German statistics, was able to buy for his family only 79 cents'

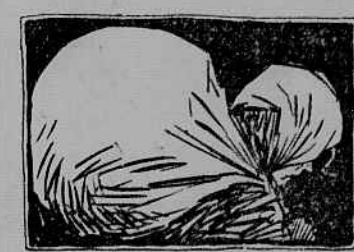
consisted of hog meat, potatoes, milk, pastry and bread. With an average additional outlay of 14 cents a week for drinks and 10 cents for tobacco, the average annual expenditure per year for a skilled worker's family amounted to \$230.65.

Cost of Living Relatively High

Of course, one has heard a great deal about the cheapness of food in Germany; that for a little money one can get a great deal more than in the United States. In addition to the cost of food, according to a study of a given number of families made by the German Imperial Statistical Office during 1907-'08, the average family expenditure each year for clothing was \$67.22, for rent, \$95.50; for heating and lighting, \$21.62, and for miscellaneous expenses, \$105.19. Bearing in mind that the average yearly earnings of unskilled workmen was \$310 and of skilled workmen \$373, the difference in cost of food between Germany and the United States was not relatively as great as it was represented to be. An idea of how the German workers' food compared with that of the workers in the United States may be gleaned by a comparison of the food consumption of the average German workman in 1907, as reported by the German Imperial Statistical Office, with what the average adult male, according to the report of the United States Bureau of Labor, consumed in 1903 in the United States:

	German workman, 1907	United States adult male, 1903
Meat	60.63	126.19
Poultry	16.31	19.44
Butter	22.55	30.15
Other fats	13.23	22.55
Fish	20.46	20.46
Eggs	8.39	23.48
Vegetables	23.48	23.48
Potatoes	202.82	240
Coffee	6.53	13.57
Milk	111.90	103.71
Sugar	43.38	69.76
Tea	3.13	1.06
Molasses	1.06	1.06
Flour meal	166.25	166.25
Rice	7.90	7.90

Reduced to the barest necessities, the German masses even at that



were forced to use substitutes and adulterated articles instead of pure food. Taking the facts embodied in reports of Prussian state officials, the "Zeitschrift für Oeffentliche Chemie" published in 1914 an amazing account of the methods of food adulteration which prevailed in Germany. According to this report, artificial butter was increasingly being used instead of real butter, even in the country; benzoin and sulphuric acids were used as preservatives in margarine; flour and bakery products were adulterated with sand, talcum and weed seeds; imitation egg mixtures were colored with coal tar products; canned vegetables were colored with salts of copper; coffee was adulterated with pulse or lupine seeds; fruit jellies were found to be entirely artificial; without regard for human health, the most flagrant adulteration of candy was carried on. The penalty for such adulterations, so the report declared, "has not been clearly defined because the law has not been properly explained." In fact, Germany never had any effective food investigations or scandals.

Death Rate Higher Than in New York

The great increase in longevity in Germany has long been one of the chief arguments of propagandists for German efficiency. But figures show that the death rate in New York City has decreased much more rapidly than in Berlin. According to the figures of Gustavus Myers, the actual gain in longevity in Germany for a period of thirty years was only 1.6 years. Comparing the period from 1881-'92 with the four years from 1908-'12 the decrease in the death rate in New York was 33.9, while the decrease in Berlin was only 27.8 per cent. In short, health is not so well safeguarded in Germany as in America.

One of the other chief arguments for German efficiency has been the abolishment of the unemployed class. Figures show that the number of men out of work far exceeds the available positions. Just before the war there were 171 applicants for every 100 jobs, according to the figures of the employment bureaus in one German state. Clearly this understates the real situation since many men undoubtedly sought in vain for work without applying to an agency.

Pauperism Doubled in Ten Years

Pauperism in any country is an unfailing index to "the just distribution of wealth" in that country. While Germany spent untold sums in advertising her model homes for workmen, her insurance schemes and other alleged social reforms, she was significantly reticent regarding pauperism. Of course, if the pension system of Germany was what it was said to be there should have been no such thing as pauperism. In fact, it was claimed there were no paupers in Germany.

Dr. Friedrich Zahn, director of the Bavarian Royal Statistical Office at Munich, and the greatest authority on poor relief in Germany, read a paper at an international convention, held in 1912, impressively called "The Fifteenth International Congress on Hygiene and Demography." Dr. Zahn presented facts and figures which proved that pauperism, increasing year by year, was a general condition throughout the German Empire. In Berlin, for instance, the number of persons receiving poor relief had increased from 31,358 in 1891 to 56,601 in 1909. From 1895 to 1909 between 9,000 and 10,000 persons were given poor relief in Hamburg. In Munich the number of paupers getting relief had more than doubled in five years; the number who received alms had increased from 11,133 in 1895 to 25,187 in 1909 although the city's population had decreased less than two-thirds. From 1905 to 1909 the poor relief expenses increased almost one-third in Frankfurt-on-the-Main. In Nuremberg the number receiving alms increased from 9,030 in 1900 to 14,496 in 1908. In Düsseldorf the number of paupers relieved almost doubled in ten years. In all of the large German cities pauper burials were frequent. While the German military machine was in the making, while German manufacture and commerce expanded, while the world was thrilled with blustering boasts of German achievements, stark destitution increased among the masses throughout Germany.

Public expenditures for paupers and orphans in twenty-six German

cities in 1910, according to Dr. Zahn, were:

City	Expenditure, 1910	Per capita expenditure
	1907	1910
Berlin	15,651,325	6.44
Hamburg	7,709,240	7.53
Munich	3,773,796	5.37
Leipzig	3,868,557	7.22
Dresden	3,305,722	5.07
Cologne	3,321,212	4.61
Breslau	2,107,812	3.49
Frankfurt-on-Main	3,085,527	6.62
Düsseldorf	1,223,104	4.67
Nuremberg	1,340,687	3.46
Hannover	1,408,183	4.32
Essen	1,041,324	4.61
Stuttgart	1,191,062	5.68
Magdeburg	1,114,466	4.56
Köln	1,041,324	4.61
Bremen	1,683,007	5.58
Dortmund	1,032,903	3.40
Heidelberg	896,753	3.12
Halle	842,104	4.14
Strasbourg	886,753	3.12
Bochum	896,753	3.12
Aachen	1,040,036	5.93
Karlsruhe	896,753	3.12
Nayenburg	896,753	3.12
Wiesbaden	495,953	3.66
Augsburg	430,927	4.21

In some of these cities the cost of caring for sick paupers in hospitals was not included. In Bavaria, the richest agricultural state in the German Empire, the number of paupers relieved, according to Dr. Zahn, had increased from 189,484, in 1900, to 230,218, in 1911. Even at that the Bavarian statistical record was incomplete. Expenditures for poor relief in Bavaria increased from 9,442,955 marks, in 1897, to 17,460,000 marks, in 1911. In ten years, from 1897 to 1906, about \$26,000,000 was spent for poor relief. That destitution was not confined to the great cities was shown in the annually increasing expenditures for poor relief in two rural districts alone:

Year	Westphalia	Rhenish Prussia
	Marks	Marks
1888	300,000	611,000
1890	330,400	700,000
1895	491,500	1,061,000
1900	615,700	1,349,000
1905	835,800	1,510,000
1908	814,200	1,601,000
1907	895,100	1,583,000
1908	984,000	1,715,000
1909	1,034,650	1,687,000

This increase in poor rural relief in the rural districts has been out of all proportion to the population. Yet the multiplication of paupers went on with the development of the German state, the increase of German wealth, the development of German industry, and after the enactment and application of the so-called social reform laws. Does this indicate, as has been asserted, that there was a fairer distribution of wealth in Germany than elsewhere in the world?

Deprived of self-respect, branded as an outcast, the pauper is doomed to end his days in the foul obscurity of hidden byways and the abominable barrack tenements. And what did he generally get? An allowance of \$1.50 a month. An allowance of \$3 to \$4 was considered magnanimous and was most unusual. Because of these individual "benefits," as they are euphemistically called, the majority of paupers have been kept out of the almshouses, and superficial investigators swallowed the declaration of German officials that their almshouses were almost empty. In the United States paupers are generally sent to almshouses. In this country the proportion of almshouse paupers per 100,000 of population had decreased from 116.6, in 1900, to 91.5, in 1910. And here is a significant fact: Of 84,190 paupers admitted to almshouses in 1910, 6,281 were negroes and 33,353 foreign-born whites, of which 5,531 were German born.

Germany's Policy The Exploit Sham

Well paid for their labor, comfortably housed, provided with beer gardens and free amusements, the German workers were supposed to be cared for in sickness and old age by the German system of pensions. That is what Americans were told. That is what caused certain Americans to hazard the amazing declaration that it might not be so bad after all if the benevolent Prussian government could ever here and took things in hand. Before the war, among all nations, Germany was the arch-hypocrite. Since the war she has established herself as the arch-criminal. Ignoring all that has been accomplished in bettered working conditions, in wage compensation, in the relation of employers and employees by the American Federation of Labor and the railway brotherhoods, a host of malcontents, Socialist agitators, pro-German pacifists, I. W. W.-ites and statistical experts for years sought to create discontent and dissatisfaction and to exploit their isms by foisting the German hoax upon the people of this country. And some of them still advocate compromise, a patched-up peace with that perfidious, hypocritical and criminal power. In America, it is true, we have been more prone to seek out and exaggerate defects than to recognize social progress and industrial betterment. But in Germany it has been the policy to gloss over actual conditions and exploit the sham. And it is all that is ugly, cruel and barbarous behind this sham that the Prussian autocracy, for its own benefit, would inflict upon the world through a war unparalleled in callous crime in the annals of mankind. To maintain our precious birthright of freedom, all that civilization has gained for us, we cannot consider peace until that power is broken and that savage system of human enslavement utterly destroyed.